

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference IMP/76143.WO/B	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/PEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/GB 03/05316	International filing date (day/month/year) 05.12.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 13.12.2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC B05B11/00		
Applicant INCRO LIMITED et al		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

☒ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 21 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the opinion
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☒ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☐ Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 24.06.2004	Date of completion of this report 21.04.2005
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority: <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div> European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465 </div> </div>	Authorized Officer Eberwein, M Telephone No. +49 89 2399-7260

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/GB 03/05316

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, Pages

1-55 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-78 received on 24.09.2004 with letter of 21.09.2004

Drawings, Sheets

1/17-17/17 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
- ☐ the claims, Nos.:
- ☐ the drawings, sheets:

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/GB 03/05316

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

III. Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

1. The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non-obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of:

☒ the entire international application,

☐ claims Nos.

because:

☐ the said international application, or the said claims Nos. relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international preliminary examination (specify):

☒ the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. 1-78 are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):

see separate sheet

☐ the claims, or said claims Nos. are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed.

☐ no international search report has been established for the said claims Nos.

2. A meaningful international preliminary examination cannot be carried out due to the failure of the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing to comply with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions:

☐ the written form has not been furnished or does not comply with the Standard.

☐ the computer readable form has not been furnished or does not comply with the Standard.

III. Non-establishment of opinion

1. Although claims 1, 2, 43, 44 and 46 have been drafted as separate independent claims, they appear to relate effectively to the same subject-matter and to differ from each other only with regard to the definition of the subject-matter for which protection is sought and in respect of the terminology used for the features of that subject-matter. The aforementioned claims therefore lack conciseness. Moreover, lack of clarity of the claims as a whole arises, since the plurality of independent claims makes it difficult, if not impossible, to determine the matter for which protection is sought, and places an undue burden on others seeking to establish the extent of the protection. Thus an opinion with regard to novelty and inventive step cannot be established.

Further observations

2. The features of the claims are not provided with reference signs placed in parentheses (Rule 6.2(b) PCT).
3. Independent claims are not in the two-part form in accordance with Rule 6.3(b) PCT, which in the present case would be appropriate, with those features known in combination from the prior art being placed in the preamble (Rule 6.3(b)(I) PCT) and with the remaining features being included in the characterising part (Rule 6.3(b)(ii) PCT).

Claims

1. A pump-action nozzle device adapted to be fitted to a container and to enable fluid stored in the interior of said container to be dispensed during use, said device having a body which defines:

- 5 (i) an internal chamber;
- (ii) an outlet through which fluid dispensed from said chamber is ejected from the device, said outlet further comprising an outlet valve configured to only open and permit fluid to be dispensed from the chamber when the pressure therein exceeds a
10 predetermined minimum threshold pressure; and
- (iii) an inlet through which fluid can be drawn into said chamber, said inlet further comprising a valve configured to only open and permit fluid to be drawn into the chamber when the pressure within the chamber falls below the external pressure;

15 said body comprising a base portion and a housing portion, said base portion and housing portions together defining the internal chamber of the device and being slidably mounted to one another such that said housing portion can be slid towards the base portion to reduce the internal volume of the chamber during a first stage of operation, thereby causing the pressure within
20 the chamber to increase and any fluid stored therein to be dispensed through said outlet if the pressure therein exceeds the predetermined minimum

threshold pressure required to open the outlet valve, and then slid away from the base to increase the volume of the chamber during a second stage of operation, thereby causing the pressure within the chamber to reduce and fluid to be drawn into the chamber through the inlet;

- 5 wherein fluid present within said internal chamber is contained within a resiliently deformable insert, which is resiliently biased to urge said housing and said base apart and is configured to be compressed when the volume of the chamber is reduced by sliding the housing towards the base.

2. A pump-action nozzle device adapted to be fitted to a container and to
10 enable fluid stored in the interior of said container to be dispensed during use, said device having a body which defines:

- (i) an internal chamber;
- (ii) an outlet through which fluid dispensed from said chamber is ejected from the device, said outlet further comprising an outlet
15 valve configured to only open and permit fluid to be dispensed from the chamber when the pressure therein exceeds a predetermined minimum threshold pressure; and
- (iii) an inlet through which fluid can be drawn into said chamber, said inlet further comprising a valve configured to only open and
20 permit fluid to be drawn into the chamber when the pressure within the chamber falls below the external pressure,

said body comprising a base portion and a housing portion, said base portion and housing portions together defining the internal chamber of the device and being slidably mounted to one another such that said housing portion can be slid towards the base portion to reduce the internal volume of the chamber during a first stage of operation, thereby causing the pressure within the chamber to increase and any fluid stored therein to be dispensed through said outlet if the pressure therein exceeds the predetermined minimum threshold pressure required to open the outlet valve, and then slid away from the base to increase the volume of the chamber during a second stage of operation, thereby causing the pressure within the chamber to reduce and fluid to be drawn into the chamber through the inlet;

wherein said device is adapted to generate a spray of the fluid dispensed.

3. A pump-action nozzle device according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the base is configured to be fitted to a container.
- 15 4. A pump-action nozzle device according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the base defines the inlet.
5. A pump-action nozzle device according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein an under surface of the base is configured to be fitted to a container and the upper surface of the base forms an internal surface of the chamber.
- 20

6. A pump-action nozzle device according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the housing forms one or more internal walls of the chamber
7. A pump-action nozzle device according to claims 5 or 6, wherein the housing defines the side wall and an end wall of the chamber and the base defines the opposing end wall.
8. A pump-action nozzle device according to any one of claims 5 to 7, wherein the housing is slidably mounted within a recess formed in an upper surface of the base.
9. A pump-action nozzle device according to claim 2, or any one of claims 3 to 8 when dependent on claim 2, wherein the internal chamber further comprises a plunger.
10. A pump-action nozzle device according to claim 9, wherein the plunger remains stationery while the housing is moved relative to the base.
11. A pump-action nozzle device according to claim 9 or claim 10, wherein the plunger forms two seals with the side walls of the chamber, a first of said seals being configured to prevent fluid leaking past the plunger during the first stage of operation and a second of said seals being configured to prevent air leaking into the being drawn into the chamber during the second stage of operation of the device.
12. A pump-action nozzle device according to any one of claims 9 to 11, wherein the plunger is seated on the base.

13. A pump-action nozzle device according to claim 12, wherein the plunger additionally comprises a valve member which is received by a valve seat formed by the base to form said inlet valve.
14. A pump-action nozzle device according to claim 2, or any one of claims 3 to 13 when dependent on claim 2, wherein said nozzle arrangement comprises a resilient means which is resiliently biased to urge said base and said housing apart.
15. A pump-action nozzle device according to claim 14, wherein said resilient means is a spring disposed within the chamber.
16. A pump-action nozzle device according to claim 2, or any one of claims 3 to 8 when dependent on claim 2, wherein fluid present within said internal chamber is contained within a resiliently deformable insert, which is resiliently biased to urge said housing and said base apart and is configured to be compressed when the volume of the chamber is reduced by sliding the housing towards the base.
17. A pump-action nozzle device according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein cooperating detents provided on the base and the housing abut one another to limit the extent by which the housing may move away from the base.

18. A pump-action nozzle device according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the outlet comprises an outlet orifice and an internal passageway which connects said chamber to said outlet orifice.

19. A pump-action nozzle device according to claim 18, wherein said outlet
5 valve defined by the body and is disposed within said internal passageway.

20. A pump action nozzle device according to claim 18 or claim 19, wherein at least a portion of the internal passageway is defined between the abutment surfaces of two or more component parts of the body of the nozzle device.

21. A pump action nozzle device according to claim 20, wherein a portion of
10 the internal passageway is also defined by just one of said component parts.

22. A pump action nozzle device according to claim 21, wherein said outlet valve is formed on said part and disposed within said portion.

23. A pump action nozzle device according to any one of claims 19 to 21, wherein the valve is disposed in the at least a portion of the internal passageway
15 that is defined between the abutment surfaces of the two or more component parts of the body.

24. A pump action nozzle device according to claim 23, wherein a valve member of the outlet valve is formed on one of said parts, said valve member being resiliently biased to assume a position in which the internal passageway is
20 closed and being further configured to only be displaced from said resiliently biased position to define an open channel through which fluid can flow when

the pressure within the chamber exceeds a predetermined minimum threshold pressure.

25. A pump action nozzle device according to any one of claims 20 to 24, wherein each of said parts has an abutment surface which contacts the abutment surfaces of the other parts when the parts are contacted together in the assembled nozzle device, at least one of said abutment surfaces having one or more groove and/or recesses formed thereon which define said internal passageway between the abutment surfaces when said parts are contacted together.
- 10 26. A pump action nozzle device according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said outlet is defined by the housing portion of the body.
27. A pump-action nozzle device according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said housing further comprises two component parts.
28. A pump-action nozzle device according to claim 27 when dependent on
15 claim 18, wherein at least a portion of said passageway is defined between two component parts of the housing portion of said body.
29. A pump action nozzle device according to claim 27 or claim 28, both when dependent on claim 18, wherein said housing comprises a first component part that defines said chamber together with said base and a second component
20 part which is fitted to said first part to such that abutment surfaces of said first and second parts are contacted together to define at least a portion of the internal passageway.

30. A pump action nozzle device according to any one of claims 18 to 25 and 28 to 29, wherein the outlet orifice is formed at an edge of the abutment surfaces of the two or more component parts.

31. A pump action nozzle device according to any one of claims 18 to 25
5 and 28 to 30, wherein the device is adapted to generate a spray of the fluid dispensed.

32. A pump action nozzle device according to claim 31, wherein said internal passageway further comprises one or more internal spray-modifying features prior to a final spray orifice or swirl chamber and orifice.

10 33. A pump action nozzle device according to any one of claims 1 to 31, wherein said nozzle arrangement is adapted to generate a spray of the fluid dispensed and is configured to receive an insert comprising one or more spray modifying features, said insert being configured such that fluid exiting the outlet orifice flows into said insert, through the one or more spray modifying
15 features, and is ejected through an outlet of the insert.

34. A pump action nozzle device according to claims 32 or 33, wherein said spray-modifying features include one or more features selected from the group consisting of: an expansion chamber, a swirl chamber, an internal orifice, multiple passageway branches, a dog-leg arrangement, a venturi chamber, an
20 outlet orifice in the form of a slit, or multiple outlet orifices.

35. A pump action nozzle device according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said device further comprises an air leak valve configured to

enable air from the external environment to access the interior of the container to equalise any pressure differential that exists between them.

36. A pump action nozzle device according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said chamber is divided into two compartments, a first of said
5 compartments comprising the inlet valve and the outlet valve and being configured dispense fluid drawn in through the inlet of the device during the first and second stages of operation, and a second of said compartments being a separate air compartment configured to eject a stream of air through the nozzle outlet during the first stage of operation and draw air in from the outside
10 during a second stage of operation.

37. A pump action nozzle device according to claim 36, wherein said air chamber is provided with an outlet valve configured to only open and permit a stream air to flow through the outlet of the nozzle arrangement when the pressure within the air compartment exceeds a predetermined minimum
15 pressure.

38. A pump action nozzle device according to any one of claims 18 to 25 in combination with claim 36 or claim 37, wherein said air stream is introduced into said internal passageway at any position along its length through an outlet channel of the air compartment.

20 39. A pump action nozzle device according to any one of claims 36 to 38, wherein said air compartment further comprises an air inlet valve.

40. A pump action nozzle device according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said device further comprises a trigger actuator configured such that when said trigger is pulled, said housing is caused to slide towards said base in said first stage of operation.

5 41. A trigger actuator adapted to be fitted to a pump-action nozzle device as defined in any one of claims 1 to 40, said trigger actuator comprising a trigger and means by which the trigger actuator may be connected to the base and the housing, wherein said trigger actuator is configured so that when the trigger is pulled said housing is caused to move relative to the base and compress the
10 chamber during the first stage of operation and when said trigger is released said housing can move relative to the base to expand the chamber during the first stage of operation.

42. A trigger actuator according to claim 41, wherein said trigger actuator is connected to the base of the nozzle device by a first attachment element and the
15 housing by a second attachment element, said elements being moveable towards each other when the trigger is pulled and moveable apart from each other when the trigger is returned to its original position.

43. A pump action nozzle device adapted to be fitted to an opening of a container and enable a liquid to be dispensed from the interior of said container,
20 said nozzle device having a body which defines an internal chamber and which comprises:

(i) an inlet having a one-way valve through which fluid can be drawn into said chamber;

(ii) an outlet orifice;

(iii) an internal passageway that connects said chamber to said outlet
5 orifice;

(iv) a one-way outlet valve disposed in said internal passageway and adapted to only open and permit fluid to flow along said passageway when the pressure within the internal chamber exceeds a predetermined minimum pressure; and

10 (v) an actuator;

said body being configured such that the internal volume of the chamber is reduced when said actuator is operated, thereby causing fluid stored in the chamber to be ejected through said outlet valve and along said internal passageway to the outlet orifice, and increased when said actuator is released,
15 thereby causing fluid to be drawn into the chamber through the inlet;

the body further defines an air chamber configured to dispense a stream of air into said internal passageway or said outlet orifice when said actuator is operated through an outlet channel which connects said air chamber to a position along said internal passageway or said outlet, said body being
20 configured such that the internal volume of the air chamber is reduced when said actuator is operated, thereby causing air present in the air chamber to be ejected through said outlet channel and into said internal passageway or said

outlet orifice, and increased when said actuator is released, thereby causing air to be drawn into the air chamber;

characterised in that one of the chamber and the air chamber at least partially surrounds the other of the chamber and the air chamber.

- 5 44. A pump action nozzle device adapted to be fitted to an opening of a container and enable a liquid to be dispensed from the interior of said container, said nozzle device having a body which defines an internal chamber and which comprises:

(i) an inlet having a one-way valve through which fluid can be drawn
10 into said chamber;

(ii) an outlet orifice;

(iii) an internal passageway that connects said chamber to said outlet orifice;

(iv) a one-way outlet valve disposed in said internal passageway and
15 adapted to only open and permit fluid to flow along said passageway when the pressure within the internal chamber exceeds a predetermined minimum pressure; and

(v) an actuator;

said body being configured such that the internal volume of the chamber
20 is reduced when said actuator is operated, thereby causing fluid stored in the chamber to be ejected through said outlet valve and along said internal

passageway to the outlet orifice, and increased when said actuator is released, thereby causing fluid to be drawn into the chamber through the inlet;

the body further defines an air chamber configured to dispense a stream of air into said internal passageway or said outlet orifice when said actuator is operated through an outlet channel which connects said air chamber to a position along said internal passageway or said outlet, said body being configured such that the internal volume of the chamber is reduced when said actuator is operated, thereby causing air present in the air chamber to be ejected through said outlet channel and into said internal passageway or said outlet orifice, and increased when said actuator is released, thereby causing air to be drawn into the air chamber;

characterised in that fluid present within said internal chamber is contained within a resiliently deformable insert, which is resiliently biased to urge said housing and said base apart and is configured to be compressed when the volume of the chamber is reduced by sliding the housing towards the base.

45. A pump-action nozzle device according to claim 44, wherein the air present within said air chamber is contained within a resiliently deformable insert, which is resiliently biased to urge said housing and said base apart and is configured to be compressed when the volume of the chamber is reduced by sliding the housing towards the base.

46. A pump action nozzle device adapted to be fitted to an opening of a container and enable a liquid to be dispensed from the interior of said container,

said nozzle device having a body which defines an internal chamber and which comprises:

(i) an inlet having a one-way valve through which fluid can be drawn into said chamber;

5 (ii) an outlet orifice;

(iii) an internal passageway that connects said chamber to said outlet orifice;

(iv) a one-way outlet valve disposed in said internal passageway and adapted to only open and permit fluid to flow along said passageway when the
10 pressure within the internal chamber exceeds a predetermined minimum pressure; and

(v) an actuator;

said body being configured such that the internal volume of the chamber is reduced when said actuator is operated, thereby causing fluid stored in the
15 chamber to be ejected through said outlet valve and along said internal passageway to the outlet orifice, and increased when said actuator is released, thereby causing fluid to be drawn into the chamber through the inlet;

the body further defines an air chamber configured to dispense a stream of air into said internal passageway or said outlet orifice when said actuator is
20 operated through an outlet channel which connects said air chamber to a position along said internal passageway or said outlet, said body being configured such that the internal volume of the chamber is reduced when said

actuator is operated, thereby causing air present in the air chamber to be ejected through said outlet channel and into said internal passageway or said outlet orifice, and increased when said actuator is released, thereby causing air to be drawn into the air chamber;

5 characterised in that the device is adapted to dispense a bolus of liquid from the outlet orifice.

47. A pump-action nozzle device according to any one of claims 43 to 46, wherein the device comprises a resilient means configured to cause the volume of the chamber to increase once the actuator is released.

10 48. A pump-action nozzle device according to any one of claims 43 to 47, wherein the body of the device comprises two component parts that can be moved towards one another to compress both the internal chamber and the air chamber and away from one another to cause both the internal chamber and the air chamber to expand.

15 49. A pump-action nozzle device according to claim 48 when dependent on claim 47, wherein the resilient means is biased against both of said parts to urge the two parts away from one another and said chamber is compressed by applying a pressure against the action of said resilient means.

20 50. A pump-action nozzle device according to claim 49, wherein the resilient means is a spring or a resiliently deformable insert provided in one or both said internal chamber and said air chamber.

51. A pump-action nozzle device according to any one or claims 43 to 50, wherein air is drawn into the air chamber through the outlet orifice, internal passageway and outlet channel when the actuator is released and the volume of said chamber is caused to increase/expand.

5 52. A pump-action nozzle device according to any one of claims 43 to 50, wherein the device further comprises an air inlet through which air is drawn into the air chamber from outside the device.

53. A pump-action nozzle device according to claim 52, wherein the air inlet comprises an air inlet valve configured to only open and permit air to be drawn
10 into the air chamber when the pressure therein falls below the external pressure.

54. A pump-action nozzle device according to any one of claims 43 to 53, wherein air is introduced into the internal passageway at a position which is downstream from the outlet valve.

55. A pump-action nozzle device according to any one of claims 43 to 54,
15 wherein the outlet channel is one or more fine holes or pores which permit air to flow through but prevent liquid from the internal chamber accessing the air chamber.

56. A pump-action nozzle device according to any one of claims 43 to 54, wherein the outlet channel comprises an air release valve adapted to only open
20 and permit fluid to flow along said passageway when the pressure within the air chamber exceeds a predetermined minimum threshold pressure.

57. A pump-action nozzle device according to claim 51 in combination with claim 56, wherein the air release valve is a two-way valve configured to permit air to flow (i) out of the air chamber when the pressure within the chamber exceeds a predetermined minimum pressure, and (ii) into the air chamber when the pressure therein is below the external pressure.

58. A pump-action nozzle device according to claim 56, wherein the air release valve is a one way valve configured to only open and permit air to flow out of the air chamber when the pressure therein exceeds a predetermined minimum and prevent flow in the opposite direction.

59. A pump-action nozzle device according to any one of claims 56 to 58, wherein the outlet valve and the air release valve are configured to open at substantially the same minimum threshold pressure.

60. A pump-action nozzle device according to any one of claims 43 to 59, wherein the internal passageway is separated from said air chamber by a wall of the body and said outlet channel is formed in said wall at any desired position so that air can be ejected into said internal passageway to any desired position along the length of the internal passageway.

61. A pump-action nozzle device according to claim 60, wherein the chamber is positioned either above or below the internal passageway and said outlet channel is formed in an upper or lower wall of the chamber respectively.

62 A pump-action nozzle device according to any one of claims 43 to 61 wherein at least a portion of the internal passageway of the outlet is defined between the abutment surfaces of two or more component parts of the nozzle device.

5 63. A pump-action nozzle device according to claim 62, wherein a portion of the internal passageway may be defined by just one of said component parts.

64. A pump-action nozzle device according to claim 62 or claim 63, wherein each of said parts has an abutment surface which contacts the abutment surfaces of the other parts when the respective component parts are contacted
10 together in the assembled nozzle device and at least one of said abutment surfaces has one or more groove and/or recesses formed thereon which define said internal passageway between the abutment surfaces when said parts are contacted together.

65. A pump-action nozzle device according to claim 64, wherein the at least
15 a portion of the internal passageway is defined between two component parts of said body.

66. A pump-action nozzle device according to claim 65, wherein the at least a portion of the passageway is defined between opposing abutment surfaces of said two parts and at least one of said abutment surfaces having one or more
20 grooves and/or recesses formed thereon which define said passageway when the abutment surfaces of said parts are contacted together.

67. A pump-action nozzle device according to any one of claims 43 to 66, wherein the outlet valve is formed by the body of the nozzle arrangement.

68. A pump-action nozzle device according to claim 67, wherein at least a portion of the internal passageway is defined between the abutment surfaces of
5 two or more parts of the nozzle device and the outlet valve is formed within said portion of the internal passageway.

69. A pump-action nozzle device according to claim 68, wherein the outlet valve comprises a valve member that is formed on one of the component parts, said valve member being resiliently biased against the opposing surface of the
10 other component part or parts, thereby closing the internal passageway formed there between, and being configured to be displaced so as to define an open channel through which fluid can flow when the pressure within the chamber exceeds a predetermined minimum threshold pressure.

70. A pump action nozzle device according to any one of claims 43 to 45, or
15 any one of claims 47 to 69 when dependent on any one of claims 43 to 45, wherein said internal passageway further comprises one or more internal spray-modifying features prior to a final spray orifice or swirl chamber and orifice.

71. A pump action nozzle device according to any one of claims 43 to 45, or
any one of claims 47 to 69 when dependent on any one of claims 43 to 45,
20 wherein said nozzle arrangement is configured to receive an insert comprising one or more spray modifying features, said insert being configured such that

fluid exiting the outlet orifice flows into said insert, through the one or more spray modifying features, and is ejected through an outlet of the insert.

72. A pump action nozzle device according to claims 70 or 71, wherein said spray-modifying features include one or more features selected from the group
5 consisting of: an expansion chamber, a swirl chamber, an internal orifice, multiple passageway branches, a dog-leg arrangement, a venturi chamber, an outlet orifice in the form of a slit, or multiple outlet orifices.

73. A pump action nozzle device according to any one of claims 70 to 72, wherein said outlet channel is arranged so that air from the air chamber is
10 introduced into a chamber formed in the internal passageway.

74. A pump action nozzle device according to any one of claims 43 to 73, wherein said device further comprises an air leak valve configured to enable air from the external environment to access the interior of the container to equalise any pressure differential that exists between them.

15 75. A pump-action nozzle device according to any preceding claim, wherein at least one component of the device is formed by a bi-injection moulding process.

76. A pump-action nozzle device according to claim 75, wherein said at least one component is formed from two different materials using said bi-
20 injection moulding process.

77. A container comprising a pump-action nozzle arrangement as defined in any one of claims 1 to 42 fitted thereto.

78. A container comprising a pump-action nozzle arrangement as defined in any one of claims 42 to 76 fitted thereto.